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Book Review: Angola—The Hope of a People

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Brazilian photographers Vinicius Souza and Maria Eugênia Sá provide a glimpse of hope through their camera lens in Angola—The Hope of a People. After many years of endless civil war, these 48 powerful black-and-white and color images capture both the “new face of Angola” and the hope of the people to create a new identity. In September and October 2002, Souza and Sá traveled to Angola in hopes of photographing the oppressed Angolan people in the streets of Luanda, the schools and hospitals of different suburbs, and in the refugee camp of Hanzolo. They encountered older people who were apprehensive of being photographed, fearing in whose hands the photograph would end up, and adolescents who would often and enthusiastically ask, “Hey, friends! Could you take a picture of us, please?”

Each photograph expresses the different facets of the Angolans’ lives: from families walking for days to wait in line for food donations from the International Committee of the Red Cross to children bathing under bridge crossings despite the dangers of the ever-present landmines. The photographers’ unorthodox style focuses on the eyes and facial expressions of the subjects, rather than where they are or what they are doing, and offers a glimpse of who these people are and what they have been through. Despite their hardships, the Angolans wear smiles of strength and courage, displaying the true face of Angola.

For more information on the project and the photographers, please visit this Web site: http://mediaquatro.sites.uol.com.br.

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**News Brief**

**Tissue-regeneration Research**

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency has awarded a US$1.7 million grant to the University of Pittsburgh’s McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine and a $1.2 million grant to the University of Massachusetts Lowell. The grant money will fund research into the structure and functions of lost or damaged tissues.

Researchers are optimistic that the knowledge gained will advance studies into the possibility for tissue regeneration. The teams will investigate how tissues and cells in certain animals, like salamanders, allow for the complete regeneration of lost tissue. Researchers will begin the large, multi-center program by examining the cellular and molecular processes that allow for regeneration—while humans respond to injury with scar tissue, salamanders and similar animals develop progenitor cells that will eventually develop into specialized cells of bone, muscle, skin and nerves.

To a certain extent, humans already are capable to repairing damaged cells—liver and red blood cells self-renew—but are incapable of reforming whole limbs.